(a) whether organic manure improve the soils 'water holding and nutrient absorbing capacity;

(b) of so,the estimated amount of rural and urban compost available in our country and its equivolents plant nutrients;

(c) the quaintly of this rural and urban compost being utilised at present; and

(d) the steps taken to encourage the use of organic manure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d). The estimated availability and use of rural and urban compost in the country is of the order of approximately 270 million tonnes and 6.5 million tonne ssrespectively. About 4.2 million tonnes of plat nutrients are available through rural and urban compost being used in agriculture. the farmers are conscious of the benefits of compost organic maners. States are periodically advised to encourage the use of use of waste as manure.

[*Translation*]

Diesel Quota of Madhya Pradesh

5734. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the diesel quota of Madhya Pradesh has been curtailed since October, 1990; and

(b) if so, the extent thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS(SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). There is no statewise quota of supply of diesel and therefore the question of curtailment on any state quota does not arise.

[*English*]

Schemes for upliftment of SCs/STs.

5735.. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families which have crossed the poverty line during Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) the number of households of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes likely to be covered through the Centrally Sponsored Schemes during 1992-93, if any social programme has been launched by Government?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b). The information is being collected.

[*Translation*]

SCs/STs In TRIFED

5736. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of appointments and promotions made in the Tribal Cooperative marketing Federation Ltd. (TRIFED) during 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes among them;

(c) whether the Federation has the requiste percentage of employees belonging to SCs/STs;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to make up the requisite percentage in appointments and promotions therein?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The total number of appointments and promotions in the TRIFED are as under: